

# Library and Public Information Resources

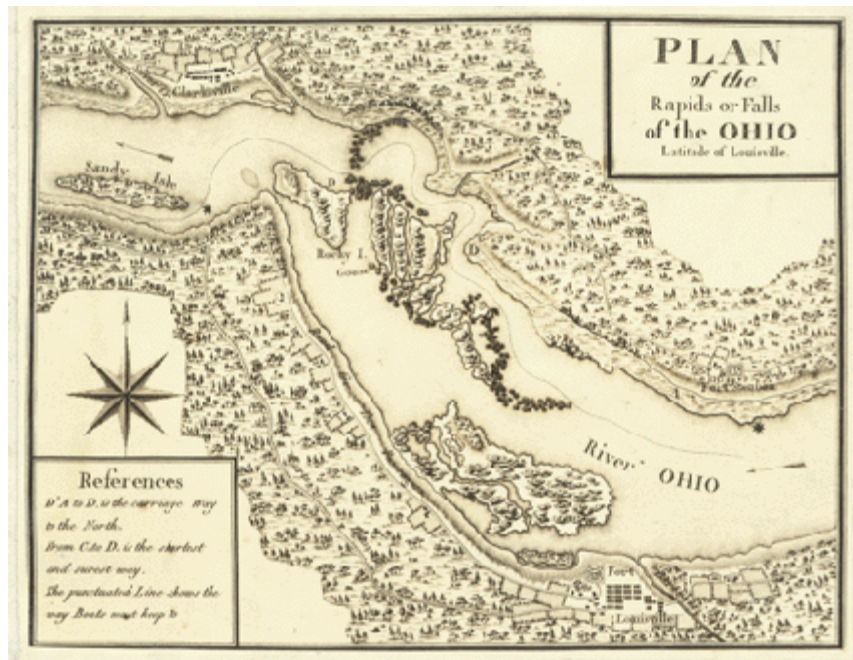
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## Mission

To provide information resources to Indiana citizens.

## Summary of Activities

The **Indiana State Library** was established in 1825, and was charged with providing library services to Indiana's government and citizens. It also provides specialized services not available at local libraries, and strengthens and supports the library profession. The State Library has a reference division that serves as a repository for all federal and state documents, a loan division that includes the only general circulation Braille library in the state, and an Indiana division, which includes a large section devoted to genealogical research. Indiana has 238 public libraries, 380 school corporation media centers, 194 special libraries, and 86 academic libraries. The State Library also



facilitates electronic access to information. It administers the INSPIRE program, Indiana's "virtual library". In conjunction with the academic, public, school and special libraries of Indiana, INSPIRE offers access to a full range of commercial databases and other electronic resources to support the educational, cultural, personal and economic interests of Hoosiers from their homes, offices, libraries, schools and businesses in Indiana. The State Library also administers Library Services and Technology Act grants for libraries in the state.

The **Commission on Public Records** manages the birth-to-death life cycle of all government records, preserving and making accessible the most valuable legal and historical records in the State Archives. The Commission provides advice, guidance, and retention schedules regarding public records for all local and county governments. It maintains a public records center that provides state agencies with off-site storage for inactive records.

The **Public Access Counselor** provides advice, assistance, opinions and training on the state's public access to records and meeting laws.

The **Access Indiana Information Network (AIIN)** is an Internet-based interactive communication and transaction system designed to make communication of information quicker and more convenient for residents and businesses throughout Indiana. The AIIN web site provides links to local governments, business and professional resources, associations, and other public information. Currently there are approximately 100,000 pages of content covering more than 75 state agencies, departments, and commissions, the judiciary system of Indiana, and the legislative branch, including elected officials and the Indiana Code and Administrative Code.

## External Factors

A significant external factor affecting library and public information services is the growing demand for legal records and information, and the increasing number of commercial databases that contain information needed for business and government to carry out planning and decision making. The cost to make these services available continues to rise each year along with the demand. Authentication issues related to new electronic record formats will also need to be addressed.

## Evaluation and Accomplishments



- The most significant accomplishment has been the completion of the remodeling and construction project for the Indiana State Library and Historical Building. Besides adding 45,000 square feet of space, the remodeled building provides additional shelving space that has adequate temperature and humidity controls for historical documents, updated electrical and plumbing, and restored historical stone and paneling.
- The State Archives were moved from the Indiana State Library building to a new location at the State Logistic Center. The Archives now rest in a secure area with state of the art shelving and preservation vaults, ensuring records preservation and longevity.
- Electronic access to the INSPIRE databases continues to grow. From July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 there were 2,215,161 logins to INSPIRE. The logins resulted in 8,119,623 searches and 45,155,438 full text pages downloaded.
- AIIN provided the public with access to free applications, including a searchable database of licensed child care providers, state college grant and scholarship information, state emergency management information, a searchable version of the Indiana Code, Department of Natural Resources water quality databases, and a sex offender registry. New information is continually being added. AIIN receives over 5 million web "hits" per month.
- Over the last biennium, the Public Access Counselor office received more than 3,800 contacts, issued 77 written advisory opinions, and conducted 25 educational and training presentations.

## Plans for the Biennium

The proliferation of electronic records presents a big challenge to the Commission on Public Records. In response the Commission will develop a broad electronic records management program that addresses the unique issues presented by computer production of records.

With the completion of the State Library construction project, attention will focus on outreach, marketing, and public relations; improving library services (including the continued processing of the Indiana Manuscript collections); purchasing Indiana newspapers on microfilm not presently in the collection; adding microfilm copies of county and private records for family history research; and placing enhanced census and business data on the world wide web.

